

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 IGA-02 AGR-20 MMS-03 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 /255 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:PMANHARD:BR

APPROVED BY AF:DEASUM

AF/RA:ANAVEZ (IN DRAFT)

PM/ISO:DPASSAGE (IN DRAFT)

EUR/NE:WBUELL (IN DRAFT)

AF/E:RBRESLER

AF/E:RVKEELEY

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R 172159Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

SECDEF

S E C R E T STATE 078266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP, MARR, NG, XO, PINT, EAID

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PM RAMGOOLAM OF MAURITIUS

APRIL 16, 1974

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM AND AMBASSADOR MANHARD CALLED
ON PM RAMGOOLAM APRIL 16 AT HIS WALDORF SUITE. AMBASSADOR
RAMPHUL AND BALANCY ALSO PRESENT. FOLLOWING IS GIST OF
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CONVERSATION:

2. RAM HOPED US WOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON PL 480 FOODSTUFFS, INDICATING WILLINGNESS BUY RICE AND RICE FLOUR AT CURRENT PRICES AND URGING VEGETABLE OIL DELIVERIES NOT BE LONG DELAYED. HE RELATED THIS TO USEFULNESS THESE COMMODITIES IN MINIMIZING POTENTIAL SOCIAL UNREST AND SUBVERSION.

3. RAM EXPRESSED DISMAY AT OVERTHROW OF DIORI OF NIGER, WHOM HE CONSIDERS GOOD FRIEND. RAM WAS DISTURBED BY SPREAD OF MILITARY COUPS AND DICTATORSHIPS IN AFRICA AND JOKINGLY HOPED SUCH WOULD NOT BE HIS FATE.

4. RAM STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO HIM AND MAURITIAN ECONOMY OF INCREASE IN US SUGAR QUOTA, NOTING HIS EARLIER HOPE OF INCREASING TO 100,000 TONS AND URGING US TO SUPPORT

AN INCREASE TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. SINCE SOME OTHER COUNTRIES NOT NOW UTILIZING THEIR EXISTING QUOTAS, HE FELT INCREASED QUOTA FOR MAURITIUS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BOTH U.S. AND MAURITIUS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS ON DIEGO GARCIA, RAM SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH UK WHEN MAURITIUS BECAME INDEPENDENT WAS (A) CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO WOULD REVERT TO MAURITIUS IF AND WHEN UK REPEAT UK NO LONGER HAD DEFENSE NEED FOR IT AND (B) MEANWHILE, GOM WOULD RETAIN "BENEFICIAL RIGHTS", MEANING PRIMARILY MINERAL AND FISHING RIGHTS IN AREA. ACCORDING TO RAM, THOSE POINTS WERE CONTAINED IN MINUTES OF NEGOTIATIONS, NOT IN FORMAL UK-GOM AGREEMENT.

6. AS TO PROPOSED EXPANSION OF U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES AT DIEGO, RAM SAID HE IS NOT PERSONALLY DISTURBED OR OPPOSED. HE RECOGNIZED NECESSITY TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT IT. HE STRESSED PRESSURES BEING EXERTED ON HIM, HOWEVER, BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA RE DIEGO. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN TRANSITING NEW DELHI TO NEW YORK THIS TRIP, INDIANS ACCUSED HIM OF BEING SUPINE ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH SUCH CRITICISMS ARE CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR HIM, HE IS TRYING TO SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN PUBLIC.

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7. RAM BELIEVED GENERAL ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE CALLED BEFORE 1976 AND POSSIBLY THIS YEAR, BUT NOT AS EARLY AS AUGUST. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OPPOSING POLITICANS INTENDED TO ATTACK HIM FOR GIVING AWAY TOO MUCH QUICKLY TO BRITISH AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE IN RELATION TO BIOT, AND DIEGO SPECIFICALLY.

8. NOTE FOR ALL ADDRESSES: RAMGOOLAM'S VIEWS ON DIEGO
SHOULD BE HELD CLOSELY. ANY REPEAT ANY LEAK, ESPECIALLY
FROM U.S. SOURCES, WOULD CERTAINLY BE EMBARRASSING TO HIM
AND COUNTER PRODUCTIVE FOR OUR INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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